

CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL-CONTROL~~ ~~CONFIDENTIAL-CONTROL~~COUNTRY Bulgaria REPORT NO 25X1
TOPIC Parachute Units of the Bulgarian Air ForceEVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1
DATE OF CONTENT 25X1
DATE OBTAINED 25X1 DATE PREPARED 23 November 1949

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. The parachute arm of the Bulgarian Air Force, between 1942 and 9 September 1944, consisted of one well equipped and trained battalion.
 2. a. The Headquarters of the Bulgarian parachute arm, in May 1948, was located at 52 ul. Ivan Asen II, SOFIA, the building of the Hq of the air force.
b. Col. MARINCHEVSKI was inspector of the Parachute Troops. There was one parachute battalion of 360 to 390 men stationed in STARA ZAGORA (B 13/B 23) in May 1948. Its CO was a partisan major whose name was unknown. The battalion comprised three companies, including one assault company with special training for sabotage activities.
 3. The members of the parachute arm were volunteers and specially qualified members of the armed forces. The period of service was 18 months as in other branches. About 10 percent of the soldiers reenlisted as cadre personnel after termination of their compulsory term of service.
 4. With the exception of the training for jumping, the status of training was bad, because the old experienced officers had been discharged after 1944 and placed before a people's court. The new officers lacked any experience in tactics. The parachutists were trained with rifles, submachine guns, light and heavy machine guns, and light infantry guns. The soldiers of the assault company were also instructed in the use of explosive for sabotage activities. Six jumps had to be made by each soldier during his basic training. After this he was called a "parachutist". Reenlisted parachutists had to jump six times each year. Higher ranks had to perform fewer jumps. NCOs and soldiers were given a bonus of 1,500 to 2,000 Leva for each jump, officers received a bonus of 4,000 Leva. Since the parachute battalion had no aircraft at its disposal, one or two Ju-52s were loaned by the Directorate for Aviation for the practice jumps. Paracans were available for dropping weapons and equipment. Light infantry guns were lowered with three parachutes per gun. Parachute

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Auth:	HR 70-2
Date:	21 11 1948
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towers were not available except for an about 150-foot tower in the Boris Park from which the population jumped for pleasure's sake.

25X1 ☐ Comment:

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